FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Sub-Saharan Africa

Vol VIII No 37 *23 February 1978*

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

At-Turayki Discusses OAU Liberation Committee Results A 1 1/A5
Algiers Cites POLISARIO on OAU Liberation Committee A 2 1/A6

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Says No Settlement While Enemy in Ethiopia B 1 1/A7
Jarso District Cleared of Somali Troops B 1 1/A7
Farmers Return to Land B 1 1/A7
Air Transport Agreement Signed With GDR B 1 1/A7
All-Ethiopian Trade Union Receives Aid From Soviet Union B 2 1/A8
Eritrean Rebels Claim Ethiopian Attack on Beilul Repulsed B 2 1/A8
Soviets, Cubans Repulsed B 2 1/A8
Finance Ministry Purged of EPRP, EDU Elements B 2 1/A8

KENYA

Nairobi Cites Reports of Iranian Embassy Closure B 3 1/A9
Planned Visit of FRG's Genscher Canceled B 3 1/A9
[Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG 22 Feb]
Vice President Condemns Somali Aggression B 3 1/A9

SOMALIA

Siad Barre Says Somalia Prepared To Negotiate B 4 1/A10
Siad Barre Accepts Mediation B 4 1/A10
Newsmen Given Tour of Ogaden Battlelines B 5 1/A11
Liberation Front Reports on Ethiopian Fighting B 6 1/A12
Information Minister Views Russian, Cuban Interference B 6 1/A12
Second Group of Students Returns From USSR, Cuba B 7 1/A13
Egyptian Paper Reports Abundance of Uranium [OCTOBER 19 Feb] B 7 1/A13

WEST AFRICA

GUINEAU-BISSAU

President Affirms Backing for Patriotic Front D 1 1/A14

NIGER

Kountche Leaves on Chad-Libya Mediation Mission D 1 1/A14

NIGERIA

Obasanjo Receives Message From Somali President D 1 1/A14

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Neto Assures Mobutu of Good Will Toward Zaire E 1 1/B1

BOTSWANA

Finance Minister Announces Budget for 1978 E 1 1/B1

RHODESIA

Constitutional Conference Discusses Transition E 1 1/b1
Rhodesian Front Caucus Backs Smith's Mandate E 2 1/B2
Salisbury Reports BBC TV Interview With Smith E 2 1/B2
Sithole Accuses Owen of Belittling Settlement E 4 1/B4
Sithole Trip to London Called 'Traitorous' E 5 1/B5
Training of Muzorewa, Sithole Forces Reported E 5 1/B5
[London SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 19 Feb]

SOUTH AFRICA

Botha Arrives in S-W Africa for Talks E 6 1/B6
Walvis Bay Issue E 6 1/B6
Johannesburg Comments on Talks E 7 1/B7
Kidnaping of Students in S-W Africa Reported E 8 1/B8

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AT-TURAYKI DISCUSSES OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE RESULTS

LD201114Y Tripoli JANA in English 0930 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 20, JANA--Dr. 'Ali at-Turayki, the foreign secretary of the Jamahiriyah and chairman of the African liberation coordinating committee said here yesterday that the achievements of the committee stretch beyond the Continent of Africa.

He told a press conference that the committee's recommendations will help the struggle not only in Africa but also Palestine and other regions where liberation struggles are going on.

Dr. at-Turayki pointed out that the OAU foreign ministers conference comes at a time when there is an intensification of the struggle in Palestine and southern Africa.

He rejected the idea of negotiations with racist regimes occupying Zimbabwe and Palestine. He stressed that history's great lesson is that the path of liberation is through armed struggle.

Dr. at-Turayki added that those who are negotiating with the Zionists are bound to lose as the Zionists refuse to withdraw from the occupied territories and continue to deny the Palestinian people the right to self-determination.

In Zimbabwe, he said, the United States and the U.K. are still backing the racist regime. These two countries have used their veto powers at the United Nations to stop any concrete and effective measures in suppressing the illegal regime in southern Africa.

He expressed the Jamahiriyah's full support for the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front which is considered as the sole legitimate liberation movement.

He said the cornerstone of the Jamahiriyah foreign policy is to aid the African and Arab nations to liberate themselves, politically and economically.

He pointed out that the Jamahiriyah is one of the few countries which can be truly described as non-aligned. It is because we are opposed to racism that we fight Zionism and its chief ally imperialism.

"We do not ask others to fight our wars but we are appreciative of any support that is given to us in our fight against our Zionist-racist enemy who is receiving the most advanced destructive weapons from the colonialist powers whose hatred for the Arab and African people is well known."

He reiterated that the Jamahiriyah's policy is based on clear and unchanging principles because its strategy is a clear and unchanging one.

The Jamahiriyah, he said, does not adopt another country's ideology and we are in nobody's camp.

Africa should not enter into any military alliances with Europe, Dr. at-Turayki said stressing Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's words at the opening session of the African liberation coordinating committee meeting.

He said priority should be given to the liberation of southern Africa and Palestine and that great care should be taken to ensure that the sanctions imposed against Rhodesia are effective.

The Jamahiriyah, he added, is in constant touch with its African brothers to see that the countries surrounding occupied Zimbabwe are not adversely affected by the sanctions.

He denounced strongly the colonialist powers that are still supporting the racist regimes, stressing that cooperation amongst Third World nations is imperative to achieve the goals of liberation.

Referring to the conflict in the Horn of Africa, Dr. at-Turayki expressed the concern of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi that the conflict should be solved within the framework and spirit of the OAU Charter.

He denounced the interference of certain African states in the conflict and said that this issue should be solved in a similar fashion to the way the Chad conflict was solved, through negotiations.

Dr. at-Turayki declared that the Jamahiriyah will be taking part in the next conference of the countries around the Sahara, to be held in Bamako.

ALGIERS CITES POLISARIO ON OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE

LD1815262 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

[Text] In addition to the Saharan people's military victories, they are continuously realizing a series of victories in the political sphere in favor of their just cause. The latest of these political victories is what was achieved by the 30th session of the OAU liberation committee which concluded its work in Tripoli, Libya.

The POLISARIO front today published a statement which declares that the question of western Sahara and the just struggle of the Saharan people were raised during the debates by many speakers who spoke during the session of the African liberation committee which specifically included the heads of the delegations of Tanzania, Angola, Algeria, Mozambique, Congo, Madagascar, Benin, Guinea-Bissau, Ethiopia, Sao Tome, [name indistinct] and the Comoro Islands. All of them expressed their absolute support for the struggle of the Saharan people against the Moroccan and Mauritanian aggression, and denounced the French Government's intervention.

The OAU liberation committee, despite the Moroccan-Mauritanian maneuvers, agreed to consider the opening speech of the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi as a final document. Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi called on the OAU to bear its responsibilities regarding the right of the Saharan people to self-determination and he also asked it to condemn French intervention.

The POLISARIO front statement goes on to say that Chairman al-Qadhdhafi urged the condemnation of neocolonial plans to restore colonialism to Africa through new methods under the guise of defending its own interests or communities. He stressed that Africa should confront these base colonial maneuvers.

The statement concludes by stressing that the OAU liberation committee considers the prevailing situation in the western Sahara so grave that it has become necessary for the OAU to take up its responsibilities toward the Saharan people. It also has denounced the French intervention in the region.

ETHIOPIA

MENGISTU SAYS NO SETTLEMENT WHILE ENEMY IN ETHIOPIA

PA191550Y Paris AFP in English 1428 GMT 19 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Addis Ababa, Feb 19 (AFP)--Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile Mariam has described calls for peace with Somalia as "subversive" and said there would never be a negotiated settlement in the Horn of Africa conflict while enemy tents were pitched on Ethiopian soil.

Speaking at a graduation ceremony for army, air force and naval cadets in Gunnet Military Academy, 44 kms (28 miles) west of here yesterday, the Ethiopian leader said his country would not bow down to pressure even though "more than 13 countries" were involved in the war of encirclement against it.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu did not name those countries but he has recently accused five western powers, several Middle Eastern states, Pakistan and Spain of supplying military equipment to Somalia and separatist guerrillas in Eritrea.

He said Ethiopia would continue to seek peaceful ways to solve the Eritrean problem but if that were not possible "with the issue would be settled the blood of the genuine gallant sons and daughters of Ethiopia." [sentence as received]

He declared that Ethiopia would defend her Red Sea gate "come what may," adding that his countrymen would turn it even redder with their blood if need be.

JARSO DISTRICT CLEARED OF SOMALI TROOPS

LD202005Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Summary] In Jarso Subdistrict, Harar District, Hararge Region, farmers whose homes were destroyed by the reactionary Somali soldiers are now settling down again. Following the action of regular and militia forces, the Jarso Subdistrict is now free of invaders. Lt Col Zeleke Beyene, PMAC member assigned to the region, has visited the area and given work guidance.

Farmers Return To Land

LD201838Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Summary] In Waber and Garamulata districts, Harar area, Hararge region, farmers who fled to the bush when their homes were destroyed by Siad Barre's soldiers are returning to their villages and reconstituting their farmers' association, now that Ethiopian regular forces and militia have crushed the invading force.

AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH GDR

LD211134Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] An air transport agreement between the Government of the GDR and the Provisional Military Government of socialist Ethiopia was initialled yesterday at the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The delegations of the two governments were meeting in Addis Ababa from 17 to 20 February to negotiate an air service agreement between the two countries. A spokesman for the Ethiopian side said: The negotiations were conducted in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, in the spirit of socialist relations between the two countries.

ALL-ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION RECEIVES AID FROM SOVIET UNION

LD171614Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1030 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Summary] The all-Ethiopian trade union has received 1,600 kg of medicines and various kinds of other goods from its Soviet counterpart. The goods were handed over today at the all-Ethiopian trade union office.

ERITREAN REBELS CLAIM ETHIOPIAN ATTACK ON BEILUL REPULSED

TA192021Y Paris AFP in English 1930 GMT 19 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Rome, Feb 19, (AFP)--Eritrean secessionists have beaten back Ethiopian troops trying to recapture the Red Sea town of Beilul, near the border with Djibouti, a communique of the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] announced here today.

The communique said that 30 Ethiopians were taken prisoner and 21 of their vehicles destroyed during the assault yesterday, 50 kms (30 miles) from the border with Djibouti.

It added that an Ethiopian convoy made up of 13 trucks and 7 armored vehicles was ambushed by ELF forces yesterday on the Addis Ababa-Assab (a major Red Sea port) road. The secessionists destroyed all the trucks and captured 25 Ethiopians and 3 armored vehicles.

Soviets, Cubans Repulsed

LD211132Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] A spokesman for the ELF has said that the Eritrean liberation forces recently repulsed a Soviet-Cuban and Abyssinian-allied offensive at the town of Beilul. He said that the allied forces offensive was aimed at recapturing the strategic town of Beilul, to the north of Assab. He disclosed that the Eritrean liberation forces have captured 30 Abyssinian soldiers and 21 military vehicles. He also said these forces destroyed the enemy's fuel depots in the area.

FINANCE MINISTRY PURGED OF EPRP, EDU ELEMENTS

LD222124Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Many members of the rightwing petty bourgeois Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party [EPRP] and remnant aristocrat Ethiopian Democratic Union [EDU] were arrested during a general meeting of all the staff of the Ministry of Finance held at the ministry's head office today.

It was reported that employees of the ministry who had been committing antipeople acts during their sojourn in the EPRP and EDU camps were arrested owing to the superlative cooperation among the members of the discussion forum of the Ministry of Finance in Shawa Administrative Region.

KENYA

NAIROBI CITES REPORTS OF IRANIAN EMBASSY CLOSURE

LD181454Y Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Reports from Teheran say that Iran has recalled its ambassador from Nairobi and is closing down its embassy in Kenya. The announcement was made by the Iranian foreign minister, Mr Abas Ali. He said his country's interests in Kenya will be looked after by a friendly country, which was not named.

PLANNED VISIT OF FRG'S GENSCHER CANCELED

DW220956Y Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 22 Feb 78 p 6 DW

[Dispatch by correspondent Peter Seidlitz]

[Excerpt] Nairobi, 21 February--A visit to Kenya by FRG Foreign Minister Genscher, prepared in detail and scheduled for the first few days of March, has been cancelled. Vice President Arap Moi, Finance Minister Kibaka, and Foreign Minister Waiyaki will be in Washington in early March. Instead, Genscher will visit Burundi and Rwanda in addition to Tanzania.

VICE PRESIDENT CONDEMNS SOMALI AGGRESSION

LD191950Y Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Excerpt] The vice president, who is also the minister for home affairs, Mr Moi, has said that Kenya would continue to oppose any country with expansionist ambitions on other country. [sentence as heard]

Conducting a fund-raising drive in aid of (Sorget) Harambee secondary school in Kericho District, where 87,000 shillings was raised, Mr Moi lashed out at Somalia for its invasion and aggression against Ethiopia. The vice president said that the current crisis in the Horn of Africa was caused by Somalia's expansionist designs on Ethiopian territory. He said this was a direct violation of both UN and OAU charters.

He stressed that Kenya would maintain friendly relations with all countries if they respected the country's territorial boundaries and did not interfere in the country's internal policy.

SOMALIA

SIAD BARRE SAYS SOMALIA PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE

ID221146Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, president of the Somali Democratic Republic (SDR), held a press conference last night at the headquarters of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party for newsmen currently visiting Somalia to brief them on the present conflict in the Horn of Africa.

Speaking on the history of the long struggle being waged by the people of the western Somaliland, the president said that Somali territory partitioned out to the Abyssinians during the colonial partition of the continent in the 19th Century. The only thing the Abyssinians [word indistinct] in the territory was the (?killing) and looting of the Somali people, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre said. The president said that ever since the Abyssinians first occupied the territory, the people of western Somaliland have been engaged in a continuous struggle to safeguard their existence and regain their independence.

Answering a question on whether the allied Russian, Cuban and Abyssinian forces are preparing to attack the SDR, Siad Barre said Russia wants to capture Berbera, Hargeisa and other strategic places in Somalia, but the SDR is prepared to defend her sovereignty and independence.

Answering a question as to whether Somalia has received arms from abroad, the president said Somalia has requested Western and other friendly countries to supply it with defensive weapons but has so far received no arms. He said the SDR need arms which compare favorably with those possessed by its enemies.

The SDR president pointed out that despite several attacks, we have not yet sent our regular army to the war front. He said he hopes African and all peace-loving countries in the world will take up the issue so as to prevent a further escalation of the conflict. The president declared that Somalia will do everything to defend its sovereignty and dignity.

Asked whether any peace moves have been taken by African leaders, Siad Barre replied that there have been and that Somalia welcomes any such just moves. He reiterated that the SDR and the liberation fronts are prepared to hold negotiations with their opponents, because, as he put it, no sane person would want to continue the war. This, he pointed out, in no way means that we are weak, but merely that we want peace, because we believe peace is in the interest of all parties.

Answering a question on the issue of the boundaries, the president said that the present boundary between Somalia and Abyssinia cannot be described as a proper international boundary, but as one demarcating a territory colonized by Abyssinia, as history has amply shown. He added that the people fighting in the territory are people colonized by Abyssinia who are fighting to secure their rightful freedom. Therefore, he said, we believe that the only solution is to grant these people the freedom for which they have struggled so long.

Siad Barre Accepts Mediation

ID221522Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre has expressed his country's readiness to resolve the conflict in the Horn of Africa through negotiations. He told a press conference in Mogadiscio yesterday that Somalia is prepared to accept President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri's mediation in this respect. He said that Ethiopia should recognize the Ogaden people's right to self-determination [words indistinct].

The Somali president stressed that the Somali regular army has not yet intervened in the Ogaden war despite (?a) decision to send units to that region to reinforce the Somali revolutionaries. [sentence indistinct]

NEWSMEN GIVEN TOUR OF OGADEN BATTLELINES

TA191759Y Paris AFP in English 1650 GMT 19 Feb 78 TA

[By Laurent Chenard]

[Text] Fiambiro, Ethiopia, Feb 19, (AFP)--This town in Ethiopia's war-torn Ogaden region at some 100 kms (60 miles) of the Somali border, has now become a no-man's land separating Ethiopian Government troops and Mogadiscio-backed insurgents.

It was seized last month by forces of the Western Somali Liberation Front [WSLF] soon after Ethiopian troops launched their counter-offensive, according to a WSLF spokesman.

The town was open to foreign newsmen for the first time as part of a 48-hour guided tour of the new frontline of the Harer province.

Fiambiro lies on a hilltop 2,000 meters high some kms (12 miles) northeast of the provincial capital of Harar held by Ethiopian troops.

Since its capture, the town has been deserted by its civilian population and the two warring parties are fighting [illegible] for its control.

Daily fighting rages on above a 2-kms (1.4-mile) no-man's land of stony ground strewn with brushwood and weeds.

The warring sides trade machinegun fire, occasionally punctuated by mortar shots.

The new frontline apparently runs through the insurgent-held towns of Mallo and Adigala along the Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway line then turns southward 40 kms (24 miles) east of Diredawa before reaching Fiambiro and winds up 20 kms (12 miles) to the south around the hotly-contested town of Babile which controls the main road to the major insurgent-held town of Jijiga.

The foreign newsmen were not able to visit the Babile area during the 48-hour tour but they frequently heard the echo of heavy artillery.

At no time did they spot any Ethiopian Air Force aircraft although WLSF officials said that Ethiopian MIG's were regularly conducting raids on towns of the area.

The newsmen did not see regular units of the Somali Army in action either although Mogadiscio announced on Feb. 11 that it was committing its regular forces to the fighting to meet the "Soviet-Cuban aggression."

The tour seems to confirm that the Ethiopian counter-offensive has been momentarily frozen either deliberately or because of stiff resistance by the insurgents.

It now appears that the fighting is increasingly taking the form of guerrilla warfare.

Insurgent forces recently conceded that they had made "strategic withdrawals" northeast of Diredawa and south and east of Harar following the Ethiopian push.

As in the past, the guided tour began in Mogadiscio from where the foreign journalists flew to the northern Somali town of Hargheisa aboard a Somali Air Force plane.

The newsmen were then driven through the border at Tug Wajale all the way to Jijiga. They then walked 4 hours to reach hillsides around here.

LIBERATION FRONT REPORTS ON ETHIOPIAN FIGHTING

TA181607Y Paris AFP in English 1555 GMT 18 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Mogadiscio, Feb 18 (AFP)--Forces of the Western Somalia Liberation Front [WSLF] recently repulsed several Ethiopian counterattacks and are now pushing towards strategic Ogaden city of Harar, an official statement said here today.

The statement, released by Somali Ministry of Information, said the town of Babile was completely under the control of the WSLF forces and that fighting was going around Fiambiro in a "forward push to Harar."

It also said the liberation forces had reached Midda, a town lying beyond Diredawa.

Today's statement was an apparent denial of Ethiopia's recent claims that its troops have pushed the Somali forces as far back as the Mardha Pass, overlooking Jijiga.

"The liberation forces of Western Somalia will fight to the last man and no power on earth can stand on their way," it said.

On the recently-proclaimed mass mobilization in Somalia, the statement said thousands of volunteers were being trained and would soon be given the arms they needed to take part in "the sacred task of defending their motherland."

It said Somalia would fight to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity despite massive Soviet and Cuban military support for Ethiopia.

"The question of lasting peace shall remain an elusive spectre so long as the rights of the Western Somalis are denied and so long as the USSR, Cuba and other Soviet allies remain deaf and dumb to all calls to leave the scene," the statement said, adding that solving the problem should be left for the parties concerned and the Organization of African Unity.

INFORMATION MINISTER VIEWS RUSSIAN, CUBAN INTERFERENCE

LD182000Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Today Challe Abdi Kassim Salad, minister of information and national guidance, told a press conference that Somalia is aware that the number of Russians and Cuban troops fighting the Somali freedom-fighters, who are liberating their country from the enemy [words indistinct], has been increased.

The minister said, however, that it must be understood, despite the reinforcement of the Russian and Cuban troops who are attacking the Somali fighters, who in turn are backed by the Somali people, we are defending our sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The minister of information said thousands of Somalis are being prepared to defend the Somali people from any enemy who threatens their existence. The Somali people are prepared to defend their brothers of the Western Somali Liberation Front [WSLF] and the Somali-Abo Liberation Front in their efforts to liberate their country.

Talking about peace in the Horn of Africa, Minister Challe Abdi Kassim Salad said that this is impossible until the rights of the Western Somali people are guaranteed and until the Russians, Cubans and others stop interfering in Africa's internal affairs.

At his press conference the minister talked about the increasing number of Russian ships in the Red Sea. He expressed concern over the matter, saying it endangered the situation in the Horn.

The minister of information and national guidance replied to Mengistu's allegations that some Arab countries are taking part in the war in the region. He said the allegations are untrue and without foundation as usual; Mengistu wants to cover up the presence of the Cubans, Russians and others fighting the freedom-fighters--a presence well-known throughout the world and proven recently by the capture of a mercenary by the freedom-fighters.

Turning to the war in western Somaliland, Challe Abdi Kassim Salad, minister of information and national guidance, said that the town of Babile is in the hands of the WSLF. Fighting is going on around Fiambiro and the enemy is being pushed toward Harar. The minister also said the WSLF had reached (Bita), which is beyond Diredawa.

The minister ended by saying that the unholy alliance had launched an abortive attack on the area and was taught an unforgettable lesson by the WSLF.

SECOND GROUP OF STUDENTS RETURNS FROM USSR, CUBA

LD221530Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Excerpt] The second group of Somali students who were studying in the USSR and Cuba arrived at Mogadiscio International Airport today. Fifty-two out of the total of 82 students who arrived today came from Cuba. The third group of students is expected to arrive from Rome later today.

EGYPTIAN PAPER REPORTS ABUNDANCE OF URANIUM

LD221314Y Cairo OCTOBER in Arabic 19 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[Text] The Somali Government has concluded a deal with an international Arab authority to explore for uranium and cobalt raw material which are necessary for nuclear research. An international organization has declared that uranium is abundantly available in Somalia.

GUINEAU - BISSAU

PRESIDENT AFFIRMS BACKING FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT

LD222326Y Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Luis Cabral, president of the Guinea-Bissau State Council, has reaffirmed his country's solidarity with the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe. The Guinean president did this when receiving Robert Mugabe, one of the leaders of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, who made a brief stop in Bissau on his way from Conakry.

Luis Cabral assured Robert Mugabe of Guinea-Bissau's total and unconditional support, and said he is aware that the struggle being waged by the Zimbabwean people is for the genuine liberation of Africa.

The coleader of the Patriotic Front briefed Luis Cabral on the political and military situation in Zimbabwe, particularly on the talks held between the front and representatives of the United States and Britain, as well as the so-called internal settlement signed by Ian Smith and the Zimbabwean puppets.

NIGER

KOUNTCHE LEAVES ON CHAD-LIBYA MEDIATION MISSION

PA222112Y Paris AFP in French 1534 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Niamey, 22 Feb (AFP)--Niger chief of state Lt Col Seyni Kountche left Niamey this afternoon for Ndjamena (Chad). From Ndjamena he will go to Sabha in Libya to participate in a quadripartite summit meeting on the Chad issue. President Kountche will travel together with Gen Felix Malloum, the president of Chad. He will also be accompanied by Niger's minister of rural development, Maj Manga Boulama.

For several months, Niger has been trying to accomplish a mediation mission between Chad and Libya. A meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries presided over by Niger was scheduled to be held in Niamey on 7 February. The meeting was called off in view of the suspension of diplomatic relations between Ndjamena and Tripoli the day before.

NIGERIA

OBASANJO RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOMALI PRESIDENT

LD222130Y Lagos International Service in English 1830 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The Nigerian head of state, Lt Gen Olusegun Obasanjo, has received a special message from the Somali leader, Gen Siad Barre. The message was delivered in Lagos today by two envoys of President Siad Barre. They are the minister of mineral resources and water development, Dr Hussein Abd al-Qadir Qasim, and the Somali ambassador to the United Nations, Dr Mohammed Warsama. Receiving the message, General Obasanjo said that he was particularly pleased with the confidence reposed in the Organization of African Unity and the OAU Good Offices Commission by the Somali leaders. He expressed optimism that the OAU would be able to resolve the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia.

Nigeria is chairman of the OAU special mediation committee on the Ethiopia-Somalia dispute over the Ogaden region. Last month the Nigerian external affairs commissioner, Brig Joseph Garba, visited Ethiopia and Somalia at the head of the committee.

ANGOLA

NETO ASSURES MOBUTU OF GOOD WILL TOWARD ZAIRE

LD222238Y Kinshasa AZAP in French 1751 GMT 22 Feb 78 ID

[Text] Kinshasa--President Neto of the People's Republic of Angola today sent a message to citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, president-founder of the Popular Movement of the Revolution and president of the republic, assuring him that he is doing everything possible to normalize relations between the two countries.

The Angolan president proposes another meeting to continue the work begun recently at the meeting in Brazzaville between delegations from the two countries, affirming that no attack, interference or plot is being prepared in his country against Zaire.

BOTSWANA

FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNCES BUDGET FOR 1978

PA221210Y Paris AFP in English 0435 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Gaborone, Feb 21, (AFP)--Botswana's estimated revenue this year will be 118.7 million pula (136.9 million dollars), Finance and Development Planning Minister Quett Masire told the National Assembly here today.

Presenting the 1978-79 budget, Mr. Masire said that expenditure was estimated [at] about 89.7 million pula [number indistinct] million dollars.

Botswana's development budget for the current financial year would be 76.2 million pula (87.6 million dollars), of which a "sizeable" amount was earmarked for defence, the minister added.

Newer projects provided for include emergency oil storage depot, new schools and colleges, the purchase of railway rolling stock and improvements to the country's health centres.

RHODESIA

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE DISCUSSES TRANSITION

LD221338Y Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD/CA

[Text] The full constitutional conference met for nearly 2 hours this afternoon at the government training center in Salisbury, but sources close to the conference say little or no progress was made. The government and three black nationalist delegations met under the chairmanship of Dr Elliott Gabellah, vice president of the ANC-Sithole. The conference secretariat announced that a further meeting would be held tomorrow afternoon. Observers in Salisbury say the conference is still discussing the composition and function of a transitional government. They say there's been little movement beyond the positions adopted yesterday and that both sections of the ANC feel that because of the support they may command, they should have a proportionally greater representation in any government.

Meanwhile, the black nationalist leader, the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, today held a second meeting with the British Foreign Secretary Dr Owen. British officials said the meeting was to discuss the recent agreement reached in Salisbury. No other details were given. After their first meeting yesterday Mr Sithole said he found Dr Owen tending to favor terrorist groups.

RHODESIAN FRONT CAUCUS BACKS SMITH'S MANDATE

PA221522Y Paris AFP in English 1457 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Salisbury, Feb 22 (AFP)--The ruling Rhodesian Front parliamentary caucus today endorsed Premier Ian Smith's mandate to continue efforts to seek an internal political settlement with three (?black) nationalist groups.

Government chief whip (?Dennis Paris) said Mr Smith had briefed the 50-member caucus on the settlement negotiations and had answered questions.

No details of the caucus discussions were released, but Mr Smith was believed to have mainly dealt with this week's discussions on an interim government and the [word indistinct] over this issue being encountered at his talks.

SALISBURY REPORTS BBC TV INTERVIEW WITH SMITH

LD221842Y Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD/CA

[Radio relay of BBC television interview by reporter Donald Maccormack with Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith on 21 February which was transmitted live on the BBC television program "Tonight"]

[Text] Mr Smith, how near are you to finalizing a settlement now?

[Answer] It's difficult to be accurate in answer to your question, because when you are dealing with other parties, one can't be sure just how long it is going to take them to make up their minds. That's the first thing I would say to you. I mean, it could be a couple of days. It could be a couple of weeks. But I think it is important that I say to you this isn't a final settlement. This is only the first step. I think people should get their minds clear that if we come to this agreement now, this doesn't mean the whole thing is settled.

[Question] What would remain to be settled then?

[Answer] Well, this is simply giving us the foundation and enabling us to then move forward on the main principles which have been agreed. We've then got to go through the process--the long process--of drawing up the new constitution, and only when we have completed that will be arrive at our final destination.

[Question] Despite these interim problems still to be sorted out, Mr Smith, can we take it categorically that Rhodesia is now firmly embarked on the road to black majority rule?

[Answer] Well, I would say to you that this is the offer which has been made. Of course, if we don't succeed in the negotiations which are now taking place, that might mean that it would fall by the wayside and then we would simply continue as we are under the present constitution. So this is an agreement which has yet to be reached as far as the principle and the details of the new constitution are concerned.

[Question] Yet you have made the offer in spite of your own past remark about black majority rule not happening in your lifetime. What made you change your mind?

[Answer] This was brought about as a result of the meeting which I had the year before last in Pretoria with Dr Kissinger under the auspices of the South African prime minister. I came back from there with the so-called Anglo-American proposals which Dr Kissinger sold. We were informed that these were really British proposals. It was made clear to us in Pretoria that we could not go on as we were then, and that we would have to accept the kind of proposals which were put forward to us, or else we would not have the support of our friends in the free world. In fact it was made clear to us that far from having their support, the pressures would increase against us. We therefore came to the simple conclusion that under those circumstances we probably would not be able to continue to survive, and therefore we made this dramatic change.

[Question] Do you still feel that the dramatic change has been undertaken under duress from your friends in the West? Or are you and your government now positive and enthusiastic about going forward?

[Answer] I think it is fair for me to say that if we had been given a free choice we would not have gone as far as we have now accepted. That doesn't mean to say that we were not conscious of the fact that there would have to be changes; sure. For a long time we accepted this. But we would have liked a more controlled change, a more gradual change than this kind of dramatic change which we have been forced into accepting.

[Question] And do you think, Mr Smith, that you will be able to sell this dramatic change to your own white constituency in this country, as you have promised to consult them in a referendum?

[Answer] Yes, in the same way as (cough)--excuse me--I was able to sell to my colleagues in parliament the proposals which I brought back from Pretoria on that occasion. I think Rhodesians are realistic people. So providing we can get a reasonable arrangement... [at this point the cast fades out for about 3 minutes]

[Smith] ...the truth, and that is that there is no such (?diplomatic exchange). I have had no contact with Mr Nkomo since the meetings which we had in this country which go back--oh, how long--well over 1 year or more ago, maybe 2 years ago. There are people who for some reason or other think that I am in collusion with Mr Nkomo and that, for example, when I went the other day to Zambia and had a meeting with Dr Kaunda, that Mr Nkomo was present on that occasion. I want to assure you that there is no substance in that. I did not see Mr Nkomo on that occasion, and I have not had any communication from him at all. It is a fact that I made an offer in public, saying that if any of these people from outside wish to come in to participate, providing they were prepared to forego terrorism and give an undertaking that they would work constitutionally for a peaceful settlement, that they could come back and participate. But nobody has taken up that offer.

[Question] Shouldn't you though, Mr Smith, be making strenuous efforts to persuade them to come and take part in view of the fact that they control the guerrillas and the guns which potentially could threaten a new settlement that emerges?

[Answer] No, I don't think we see it quite that way. We believe that if we come to a genuine settlement here within Rhodesia that terrorism will die away. You see, the Patriotic Front has very limited support in Rhodesia today. In fact, our assessment is that it is decreasing. It was about 15-16 percent. It's now right down to about 10 percent, and this is because they are outside the country. But it's mainly Mr Nkomo who has that support. We think Mr Mugabe has no support in Rhodesia. But if it's 90 percent support internal and only 10 percent external, we think we can go on with the 90 percent and succeed.

[Question] So, Mr Nkomo's future in the country is highly dubious from your point of view. What about your own future, Mr Smith? You've presided over this country for 12-13 years, and yet it looks as though within another couple of years you will no longer hold any important position of power here.

[Answer] I shall be very happy when that day comes, I want to assure you. I have been in a long time, and I think that the majority--the average person, should I say--who's been through the kind of life that I've been through over the last 15 years or so would be very happy to get back to normality, because it has not been a normal life. I want to assure you that far from being sad, I am looking forward to the day when I can retire from this game of politics. But I would like to succeed in what I am now trying to do. Then I believe I could retire peacefully, knowing that I could go on living in Rhodesia, and I would hope my children and grandchildren could do likewise.

[Question] Finally, Mr Smith, what are your feelings now, in this (?benign) mood, coming towards the end, perhaps, of your political career, about Britain, with whom you quarrelled at the start of this whole affair?

[Answer] I'm pleased to say that I think I speak on behalf of the majority of Rhodesians when I say we don't hold anything against the British people. The British politicians--yes. We believe they have given us a raw deal over many issues--some politicians more than others. Regrettably, there seems to be some who are almost looking for revenge and who are prepared to indulge in vindictiveness, and I regret to say I think there is a certain amount of this going on at this moment. We hope to overcome this and get a fair settlement. But I don't believe that Rhodesians will hold this against the average Britisher--the man in the street--in Britain. We hope to get back to normality and friendly relations once again.

SITHOLE ACCUSES OWEN OF BELITTLING SETTLEMENT

LD222158Y London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1843 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Secretary Dr David Owen was today accused of seeming to belittle and almost disregard the "tentative internal agreement" reached in Rhodesia.

African nationalist leaders the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole made the accusation in a letter to Dr Owen. He claimed Dr Owen had not reacted to the letter even though the two men had met since it was written.

Copies of the letter were distributed today at a press conference.

It said certain attitudes of Dr Owen did not "in any way help us to solve the problem which has bedevilled our country for the last 13 years.

"There is an unfortunate tendency on your part to regard the externally-based Patriotic Front, which has been massively rejected by the people of our country, as though Zimbabwe began and ended in the Patriotic Front when, in fact, it begins and ends in the people."

The front has been waging a guerrilla war against the minority government of Premier Ian Smith.

The letter added: "You seem to give the unfortunate impression that those who make wild military claims bearing no material relation to the political and military situation in Zimbabwe call the tune to which everyone else in Zimbabwe should dance." This, it says, gives "the unfortunate impression that you subordinate the democratic principle to the military principle." The letter added: "You appear to belittle and almost disregard the tentative agreement resulting from the current internal settlement talks."

Mr Sithole also wrote to Prime Minister James Callaghan, urging him "to respect the wishes of the people of our country, and to desist from pandering to the external forces that altogether disregard these wishes in preference to their own, and to accept as a matter of course what those who live in Rhodesia shall finally agree upon."

"Mr Smith is now a different man from the man who once said: 'There will be no majority rule in my lifetime, and not in a thousand years.'"

Tom McMullan, a diplomatic correspondent, writes: The Foreign Office today denied a claim by nationalist leader Mr Joshua Nkomo that the Rhodesian internal settlement plan was formulated in Britain.

The plan is now being negotiated in Salisbury between Mr Smith and the black nationalist leaders inside Rhodesia.

Mr Nkomo is joint leader of the Patriotic Front.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "Britain has not helped to formulate the internal settlement proposals."

SITHOLE TRIP TO LONDON CALLED 'TRAITOROUS'

LD222046Y Maputo Voice of Zimbabwe in English to Rhodesia 1800 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Ndabaningi Sithole, a traitor to the revolution of the people of Zimbabwe, presently on a whirlwind tour in Europe, last night failed to raise even (?ten) policemen to attend his meeting in London. Ndabaningi Sithold, who wanted to address students from Zimbabwe, was made to wait for more than an hour before abandoning his treacherous plans. The meeting was attended by ten policemen who had been (?called) on duty by the British Foreign Office.

Speaking to a small gathering later the Zimbabwean traitor admitted that he had been sent to Europe [words indistinct] Ian Smith (?to convey) a sham agreement signed last week in Salisbury to the British public.

Sithole, who is travelling with four terrorists from the Salisbury regime's special branch police, also admitted that he could not travel in the rural areas of Zimbabwe, because the ZIPA [Zimbabwe People's Army] forces were in control. He also disclosed that he intended to recruit mercenaries to fight in Smith's battered terrorist army during his stay in London.

TRAINING OF MUZOREWA, SITHOLE FORCES REPORTED

LD191725Y London SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 19 Feb 78 p 2 LD

[Article by Christopher Munnion in Salisbury: "New Rhodesia Black Armies"]

[Text] As Rhodesia's internal settlement talks move on to the critical issue of the future armed forces, nationalist sources in Salisbury confirmed yesterday that two more black armies are being raised.

Forces loyal to Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, the two leading black participants in the Salisbury talks, are being trained in Libya, Sudan and Zaire, according to the sources.

It is understood each consists of several hundred men who, the leaders hope, will be airlifted into Rhodesia during the transitional period to strengthen their respective positions.

Many of the recruits for the new forces have been drawn from Rhodesian refugees who either fled or were abducted and taken to camps in neighbouring Botswana.

Many have joined Mr. Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army and were flown to training camps in Angola and Zambia. Others declared for Bishop Muzorewa and were sent to Zaire and on to Libya and Sudan.

Mr. Sithole has always retained the loyalty of many hundreds of guerrillas, mostly within the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army [of] which Mr. Robert Mugabe claims to control.

Mr. Sithole's forces are also being trained in camps in Libya and Sudan, and one group of experienced men is understood to be training as a commando unit under Palestinian instructors in Uganda.

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA ARRIVES IN S-W AFRICA FOR TALKS

LD212158Y Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The South African foreign minister, Mr Roelof Botha, has reaffirmed that the South African Government does not lay down the law on a settlement for South-West Africa. It is up to the territory's peoples to decide on their own future.

Speaking on arrival at J.G. Strydom Airport, near Windhoek, Mr Botha said he was in South-West Africa to consult with the administrator general, Mr Justice Steyn, and his staff to inform them of the New York talks and subsequent contacts between South Africa and the West. He would also be briefed by Mr Steyn on the latest developments in the territory. He did not plan to have direct talks with interested parties in the territory at this stage, although this did not mean, should the need arise, that he would not be prepared to have discussions with individual leaders.

Walvis Bay Issue

LD221110Y Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The South African foreign affairs minister, Mr Roelof Botha, says his government has committed itself not to agree to anything which would jeopardize the safety of South-West Africa or its people. Speaking in Windhoek, where he is to have talks with the administator general, Mr Justice Steyn, and other leaders, Mr Botha repeated that South-West Africans have to decide their own future. Asked about the future of Walvis Bay, Mr Botha said the harbour and its environs formed an integral part of South Africa. The government could not and would not make any concessions on this question. South Africa was not prepared to give her land away piecemeal.

He said negotiations with the western powers of South-West Africa had reached a stage where it was reasonably clear to all parties where they stood. Now it was a matter of seeking clarifications and adaption of language to see what gaps could be bridged. Mr Botha said he wanted to see more direct meetings between the western five nations and the South-West African political leaders.

Johannesburg Comments on Talks

LD211900Y Johannesburg International Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD

[Station commentary]

[Summary] The visit to South-West Africa by South Africa's foreign minister, Mr R.F. Botha, is a sequel to the recent New York talks. After the visit he pointed out that there was still hope for the South-West Africa talks if the Western nations accepted the reasonableness of South Africa's standpoint.

"The principal issue, the central problem, in South-West Africa is the maintaining of orderly conditions during the interim period until independence, and the particular question it raises is the ability of the proposed UN force to perform this function.

"In South-West Africa a UN force, whatever its composition or intentions, would suffer a special disadvantage in that it would be associated by the blacks in the territory with SWAPO, since the United Nations has all along backed SWAPO. The force, therefore, would be deeply distrusted. Under these circumstances the presence of an adequate South African force in the territory is indispensible for peace and order.

"South Africa realizes that continued dialog with the West is vitally important, although at the same time there is a wariness in negotiations arising from the knowledge that the Western side's interests differ in vital respects from those of southern Africa. Nevertheless South Africa is forging ahead with plans to secure a settlement that will be as representative as possible, in other words, the SWAPO should join in the democratic process of free elections.

"As one observer put it, South Africa is in full pursuit of a settlement and SWAPO should take part in the elections.

"But this does not mean that South Africa favors a transfer of power which satisfied the majority of states in Africa, a transfer that would help the West's relations with black Africa but one which would not be an equitable settlement for the people of South-West Africa themselves. In other words, the wishes of the inhabitants are paramount. They must have the right to decide their future."

[Text] The administor general of South-West Africa, Mr Justice M.T. Steyn, has announced that SWAPO terrorists have abducted 119 pupils from a school in Ovamboa. Mr Steyn made the announcement during a welcoming speech at a function for the visiting South African minister, Mr Roelof Botha. He said about 80 terrorists had been involved in the incident which took place near (Odibu), and some of the children had managed to escape. Mr Steyn said that despite these acts of terrorism, he was convinced that a peaceful solution could be found to the territory's problems.

Mr Botha, who is in South-West Africa for consultations on the territory's future, said he did not believe that SWAPO was interested in a peaceful settlement. He added that the SWAPO onslaught was directed against the people of the territory and not against the South African Government.

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